

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are all the claims pending in the application. Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated that the application is in condition for allowance with the exception of the following objections.

First, the Examiner has requested that the title be amended to be indicative of the invention. Accordingly, Applicants have changed the title to read “A CONNECTOR HAVING AN IMPROVED FRONT HOLDER DESIGNED FOR RETAINING TERMINALS.” Approval is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has also objected to the Abstract of the Disclosure as being too long. Thus, Applicants have amended the Abstract so that the total number of words is in the permissible range of 50 to 150.

With respect to the drawings, Applicants submit herewith, Figures 15-20 labeled “PRIOR ART”.

The Examiner has objected to the Summary of the invention contending that it should not repeat the claims. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner and therefore respectfully traverse this objection. More specifically, MPEP § 608.01(d) states that the purpose of the Brief Summary of the Invention is to apprise the public of the nature of the invention. It further states that “the summary should be directed to the specific invention being claimed, in contradistinction to mere generalities which would be equally applicable to numerous preceding patents.” As such, Applicants believe that the Summary of the Invention complies with the MPEP. To the extent that the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is invited to suggest alternative language for Applicants’ consideration.

The Examiner objected to claims 2, 9 and 10. With respect to claim 2, it appears that the Examiner is contending that claim 2 is contradictory in that it recites that the completely-retaining member includes a sensor retaining member. Applicants do not understand or agree with this objection. More specifically, claim 2 is not reciting that any particular single member is provided in two places, as the Examiner seems to contend. To the contrary, claim 2 simply clarifies that the completely-retaining member includes a center retaining member, which is identified by reference numeral 26 in Figure 1 of the application. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw this objection to claim 2 or to further explain the Examiner's concerns with respect to this claim.

With respect to claim 9, Applicants have amended claim 9 to correct the antecedent problem noted by the Examiner. Also, claim 10 has likewise been amended to address the Examiner's concerns.

With respect to the objection of claim 3 relating to the features not being shown in the drawings, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Provided below is claim 3 with the reference numerals added to illustrate this point. As to the Examiner's contention that the drawings do not show the alternative arrangement of claim 3, Applicants respectfully submit that such is not required by the rules.

The connector as set forth in claim 2, wherein the center retaining member (26) includes a first retaining portion (32) provided at one of the housing (3) and the front holder (4), and a resilient arm lock portion (33) provided at the other of the housing and the front holder;

wherein the resilient arm lock portion, includes;
an elastically-deformable arm (34) which is fixed to the other of the housing and the front holder at one end of the arm;
a second retaining portion (35) which is formed on and projecting from a free end portion of the arm; and

the operating portion (36) which is provided on the free end of the arm, and makes the arm elastically deformed so as to displace the second retaining portion into a lock released position; and

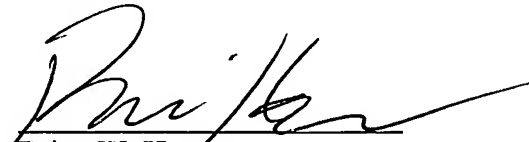
wherein the second retaining portion (35) of the resilient arm lock portion is engaged with the first retaining portion (32) in the completely-retaining position.

As to the reasons for allowance, Applicants wish to clarify that the prior art does not teach or suggest the unique combination of features recited in independent claims 1 and 10 or their respective dependent claims.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. It is therefore respectfully requested that it be passed to issuance at the earliest possible convenience. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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